AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1-19 (Cancelled).

20 (Withdrawn). A method for the treatment of a disease, in which NF-κB inducing kinase (NIK) and cγc interaction is involved in the pathogenesis of said disease, comprising administering to a subject in need thereof an amount of a polypeptide effective to bind to cγc and inhibit cγc/NIK interaction, wherein the polypeptide comprises:

(a) NIK;

(b) a variant of (a) that maintains at least 90% sequence identity with (a) and maintains the ability thereof to bind to cγc and inhibit cγc/NIK interaction;

(c) a pharmaceutically acceptable functional derivative of (a) prepared from the functional groups present on the lateral chains of the amino acid moieties or on the terminal N- or C- groups of the polypeptide of (a), that

maintains the ability of (a) to bind to cγc and inhibit cγc/NIK interaction; or

(d) a circularly permutated derivative of (a) that maintains the ability thereof to bind to cγc and inhibit cγc/NIK interaction,

with the proviso that the cytokine is other than IL-2.

21-24 (Canceled).

25 (Withdrawn). The method according to claim 20, wherein the variant of NIK is AlyNIK.

26-68 (Cancelled).

69 (Currently amended). A method of ~~treatment of a disease in which~~ modulating cytokine stimulating cγc signaling ~~NF-κB inducing kinase(NIK) and cγc interaction is involved in the pathogenesis of said disease~~, comprising administering to a subject in need thereof an amount of a polypeptide effective to bind to cγc and inhibit ~~cγc/NIK~~ interaction between cγc and NF-κB inducing kinase (NIK), wherein the polypeptide comprises:

(a) ~~a fragment of NIK comprising the cγc binding domain (SEQ ID NO: 18)~~ a polypeptide comprising

SEQ ID NO: 18, which ~~maintains~~ has the ability ~~thereof~~ to bind to cγc and inhibit cγc/NIK interaction;

(b) the polypeptide of (a) comprising a variant of ~~(a)~~ SEQ ID NO: 18, that has at least 90% sequence identity with (a) and maintains the ability thereof to bind to cγc and inhibit cγc/NIK interaction;

(c) the polypeptide of (a) comprising a derivative of SEQ ID NO: 18~~a pharmaceutically acceptable functional derivative of (a) prepared from the functional groups present on the lateral chains of the amino acid moieties or on the terminal N- or C- groups of the polypeptide of (a)~~, that maintains the ability of (a) to bind to cγc and inhibit cγc/NIK interaction; or

(d) a ~~circularly permutated derivative~~circular form of (a), (b), or (c), that maintains the ability thereof to bind to cγc and inhibit cγc/NIK interaction.

70 (Currently amended). A method of ~~treatment of a disease in which~~ modulating NIK induced NF-κB activation signaling ~~is involved~~, comprising administering to a subject

in need thereof an amount of a polypeptide effective to bind to cγc and inhibit interaction between cγc and NF-κB inducing kinase (NIK), ~~cγc/NIK interaction,~~ wherein the polypeptide comprises:

(a) ~~a fragment of NF-κB inducing kinase (NIK) corresponding to the cγc binding domain (SEQ ID NO: 18)~~a polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO: 18, which ~~maintains~~ has the ability thereof to bind to cγc and inhibit cγc/NIK interaction;

(b) the polypeptide of (a) comprising a variant of ~~(a)~~ SEQ ID NO: 18, that has at least 90% sequence identity with (a) and maintains the ability thereof to bind to cγc and inhibit cγc/NIK interaction;

(c) ~~a pharmaceutically acceptable functional derivative of (a) prepared from the functional groups present on the lateral chains of the amino acid moieties or on the terminal N- or C- groups of the polypeptide of (a)~~the polypeptide of (a) comprising a derivative of SEQ ID NO: 18, that maintains the ability of (a) to bind to cγc and inhibit cγc/NIK interaction; or

(d) a ~~circularly permutated derivative~~ circular form of (a), (b), or (c), that maintains the ability thereof to bind to cyc and inhibit cyc/NIK interaction.

71 (Cancelled).

72 (Withdrawn). The method according to claim 69, for the treatment of cancer.

73-81 (Cancelled).

82 (Currently amended). The method in accordance with claim 69, wherein said polypeptide is ~~a fragment of NF-κB inducing kinase (NIK), comprising the cyc binding domain (SEQ ID NO: 18)~~ the polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO: 18, which ~~maintains~~ has the ability ~~thereof~~ to bind to cyc and inhibit cyc/NIK interaction or ~~a pharmaceutically acceptable functional~~the polypeptide comprising a derivative of ~~said fragment~~(a), prepared from the functional groups present on the lateral chains of the amino acid moieties or on the terminal N- or C- groups of said ~~fragment~~polypeptide, that maintains the ability of said ~~fragment~~ polypeptide to bind to cyc and inhibit cyc/NIK interaction.

83 (Currently amended). The method in accordance with claim 69, wherein said polypeptide is ~~a fragment of NF-κB inducing kinase (NIK), comprising the cyc binding domain (SEQ ID NO: 18)~~the polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO: 18, which ~~maintains~~ has the ability ~~thereof~~ to bind to cyc and inhibit cyc/NIK interaction.

84 (Withdrawn). The method in accordance with claim 83, wherein said polypeptide is the C-terminus of NIK (from residue 624 to 947, SEQ ID NO:19).

85 (Previously presented). The method in accordance with claim 83, wherein said polypeptide is NIK 640-720 (SEQ ID NO: 18).

86 (Previously presented). The method in accordance with claim 69, wherein said variant of (b) has at least 95% sequence identity with (a).

87 (Currently amended). The method in accordance with claim 70, wherein said polypeptide is ~~a fragment of NF-κB inducing kinase (NIK), comprising the cyc binding domain (SEQ ID NO: 18)~~ the polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO: 18,

which ~~maintains~~ has the ability thereof to bind to cyc and inhibit cyc/NIK interaction or ~~a pharmaceutically acceptable functional~~the polypeptide comprising a derivative of (a) ~~said fragment~~, prepared from the functional groups present on the lateral chains of the amino acid moieties or on the terminal N- or C- groups of said ~~fragment~~polypeptide, that maintains the ability of said ~~fragment~~ polypeptide to bind to cyc and inhibit cyc/NIK interaction.

88 (Currently amended). The method in accordance with claim 70, wherein said polypeptide ~~is a fragment of NF-κB inducing kinase (NIK),~~ the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 18, which ~~comprising~~ comprises the cyc binding domain ~~(SEQ ID NO: 18), which~~and maintains the ability thereof to bind to cyc and inhibit cyc/NIK interaction.

89 (Withdrawn). The method in accordance with claim 88, wherein said polypeptide is the C-terminus of NIK (from residue 624 to 947, SEQ ID NO:19).

90 (Previously presented). The method in accordance with claim 88, wherein said polypeptide is NIK 640-720 (SEQ ID NO: 18).

91 (Previously presented). The method in accordance with claim 70, wherein said variant of (b) maintains has at least 95% sequence identity with (a).

92-99 (Cancelled).

100 (Previously presented). The method in accordance with claim 98, wherein said polypeptide is NIK 640-720 (SEQ ID NO: 18).

101 (Cancelled).

102 (Currently amended). The method according to claim 69, wherein the ~~pharmaceutically acceptable functional~~ derivative of (a) is an ester or aliphatic amide of a carboxyl group, an N-acyl derivative of a free amino group, or an O-acyl derivative of a free hydroxyl group.

103 (Cancelled).

104 (Currently amended). The method according to claim 70, wherein the ~~pharmaceutically acceptable functional~~ derivative of (a) is an ester or aliphatic amide of a

carboxyl group, an N-acyl derivative of a free amino group, or an O-acyl derivative of a free hydroxyl group.

105 (Cancelled).